

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH, AND
HOUSEHOLD IMPACT

José Luis Solache, Jr., Chair

ACR 129 (Haney) – As Introduced January 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Lagos State, Nigeria: sister state relationship

SUMMARY: This resolution would establish a formal sister state relationship between the State of California and Lagos State, Nigeria, to promote collaboration across key strategic areas.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Recognizes California is home to one of the largest Nigerian diasporas in the U.S., strengthening ties with Lagos State.
- 2) Supports both regions are global leaders in technology and entertainment, anchored by Silicon Valley/Silicon Lagoon and Hollywood/Nollywood.
- 3) Recognizes that California and Lagos share priorities in climate action, education, trade, and innovation, supporting a formal partnership to expand collaboration.

EXISTING LAW: California establishes sister state, friendship, and cooperation agreements with international regions through legislative resolutions to foster economic growth, trade, and cultural exchange, with 36 such agreements officially recognized, including partnerships with Guangdong Province and Jalisco. These agreements often, but not always, focus on key areas such as green energy, education, and economic development. The agreements are designed to strengthen economic ties, increase trade and investment, and promote goodwill with international partners. Sister State agreements are generally established through California Assembly or Senate Concurrent Resolutions, which declare the intent of the Legislature to form the alliance. Cooperation agreements frequently focus on sectors like science and technology, low-carbon development, environmental protection, education, and cultural exchange. These, and other established relationships (such as with Jalisco, Mexico, or Catalunya, Spain), are overseen through the Senate Office of International Relations (SOIR), though both chambers share authority in creating them.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: Governor Gavin Newsom formalized a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Republic of Nigeria during COP30, held in November 2025 in Belém, Brazil. The accord establishes a framework for collaboration across key areas including sustainable urban mobility, green port development, low-carbon fuels, methane monitoring and reduction, climate resilience, air quality improvement, and academic exchange. The agreement builds on momentum from the California–Africa Climate Economic Partnership delegation, which traveled to Nairobi, Abuja, and Lagos in August. Organized by the Governor’s Office in partnership with UC Davis and the Bay Area Council, the mission convened leaders from California and across Africa to align shared priorities such as clean transportation, resilient infrastructure, and inclusive economic growth now formalized through this new partnership.

The partnership is driven by a strong alignment of economic, technological, and environmental interests. As Nigeria's commercial hub, Lagos offers California businesses access to one of Africa's most dynamic markets, spanning sectors such as technology, fintech, agriculture, creative industries, and infrastructure. At the same time, collaboration between Silicon Valley and Lagos' rapidly expanding tech ecosystem creates opportunities for shared innovation in renewable energy, digital technologies, and artificial intelligence. Both regions also share ambitious climate goals, with joint efforts focused on clean transportation, port decarbonization, and sustainable energy solutions. Looking ahead, Africa's projected population growth and economic rise by 2050 underscore the long-term strategic importance of this relationship, positioning the partnership to expand trade, investment, and global engagement for both regions. The announcement also highlights the Bay Area's expanding influence in international subnational diplomacy. Through leadership in clean technology, climate innovation, port decarbonization, and research collaboration, the region continues to help shape global climate strategies while opening new pathways for cross-border cooperation. Looking ahead, the California–Africa Climate Economic Partnership will continue its work into 2026, further strengthening ties between California and African partners in clean energy, transportation, climate adaptation, and sustainable economic development.

Author's Statement: According to the author "Nigeria, and Lagos in particular, is a global center for creative industries, technology, and maritime trade, with world-leading growth in film, music, digital media, innovation, and port activity. California shares these strengths and is home to one of the largest and most engaged Nigerian diaspora communities in the United States, contributing to our state's cultural vibrancy, economy, and workforce. Strengthening our ties through a sister-state relationship builds on these shared strengths, supports existing collaboration in arts, ports, education, climate, and technology, and ensures that a rapidly growing and mutually beneficial partnership receives the visibility and recognition it deserves".

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Bay Area Council
California Airports Council

Opposition

None on file.

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